

TUNIC IS TO BE GIVEN A TRYOUT

France Flings Magnificent Warlike Garment Upon Happy World.

COLORS TO REIGN SUPREME

Models Made of Glistening Coat-of-Mail and Metallic Cloths, and Others of Crepe de Chine or Chiffon.

New York.—Some historians may know when the tunic started its career as a fundamental fashion in the clothing of the human race, but no one has stated the exact date with an attempt at accuracy, according to a prominent fashion authority.

There are many who believe that it was the first garment worn by Adam and Eve, when they realized that clothing was to be a necessity to their species. The tunic really followed the mantle, and from Elijah to William I of England is a long, long spell in history, but we know that the former wore a mantle and the latter a tunic. Julius Caesar occupied a place in the sun between these two, but he wore a toga. Beau Brummel brought in coats and George IV, picturesque as he was in his costumery, blazed the path for the ugliest clothes that the men on this planet have ever worn.

The tunic was a masculine fashion, as most garments are that women think are their own. The critics of this generation fall upon women and smite them hard for their fripperies and frivolities, the whims and caprices of their clothing, and yet these critics are men who do not seem to realize that all the centuries of progress of the male part of the human race were given over to caprice and brilliancy in apparel, as well as to defeat and victory in arms.

War and the Primitive Tunic.

No doubt the clash of arms in France brought back to the minds of the designers the long centuries of warfare that had preceded the peace since 1870. The tunic was the fundamental part of the British warrior's costume, and the cuirass—that glittering breastplate of steel and highly polished metal—was the symbol of all fighters. So France introduced the tunic of that other and primitive warfare which she thought had gone forever, and suddenly found one August morning that it had come to her with all the cruelty of the early centuries.

She did her best to enforce this tunic into the fashions of other countries, but with small measure of success until late this autumn. After steady persistence, a trick she has in the making of all her forms of art, the least of

may be cut according to the fashion of William I or they may be after the manner of Dagobert of France—long and wrinkled to the wrist.

Building on this foundation, the designers in America and Paris have thrown caution and economy to the winds and accepted this new blouse in such an extravagant manner that they seem to be making up for that time when they let it rest neglected in the dark corners.

The cables from Paris insist that coat suits are much smarter than one-piece frocks for the woman of fashion and her followers, but here in America, even with the impetus given to tailored



Outside blouse of gray velvet embroidered in black and trimmed with bands of fur. It is worn with a skirt of black velvet embroidered in gray.

suits in the early autumn, the pendulum appears to have swung back to one-piece frocks and luxurious wraps of fur and velvet. Probably with the advent of early spring, with the southward bound tourist, the coat suit will regain the prestige of October. If it does, these extravagant, short, medieval tunics will have a high chance for development. In the interim, they are worn not only with heavy tailored suits, but as tops to separate skirts.

Can Be Made at Home.

It is in this department of dress that they are most brilliant. There are some dressmakers who feel that smart women will no longer order entire frocks if the enthusiasm for these brilliant accessories grow in strength. However, there is no reason for despair in that, for the tunic blouse, as it is displayed at this hour, is no mean thing to make and no poor thing to purchase. Its fabric and the ornamentation put upon it bring the cost well up beyond the average purse. But the best part of it is that the amateur can make these things at home, for they have nothing but straight lines and are built from loosely hanging widths of the material.

And yet there is danger in the work of the amateur, especially if she is guided by this hasty description, for it is the tunic of the Conqueror that is in fashion, not the smock of the Russian moujik or the gorgeous coat of the Arabian potentate. The widths must outline the figure, and they must cling to the hips, and the armholes must be cut with precision and perfection. The whole attempt of fashion today is to throw the figure into a sharp outline, and we must watch that tendency if we would keep abreast of what is happening and cultivate our vision to look ahead.

There is no reason for women to cry aloud over the extravagance of some of the new tunics that are offered, for these may be copied in simple fabrics.

Leather Buckskin Brocade.

Here are a few of the most extreme short tunics that are sponsored by good houses in Paris and America. First, there are the blouses of leather, which were shown in America a month ago, with and without sleeves. They came out with the leather top coat and the service coat of pelt and leather.

As a rich sister to the practical leather blouses are those of colored buckskin, made in deep pink and embroidered all over the surface. These are worn with long, narrow black and seal-brown velvet skirts.

The metal tricolors are also used. They are reminiscent of the early centuries of warfare. They are cut on the fashion of the Conqueror's tunic. Tunics That Will See Active Service.

As opposed to these gorgeous specimens of tunics that never were worn by William the Conqueror or any of the medieval warriors, there are practical ones in brilliant wool jersey. In France they are wearing them in colors taken from splendid-hued flowers. Crepe de chine is a good fabric, and all manner of velours, suede cloth and knitted wool are turned into these tunics. They are not somber or demure. The world wants color, and it is going to have it. Let none rise to cry it down. There may be other shadows threatened by the pessimists, but we have emerged from the blackest shadow of them all; and in our new state of happiness we intend to dress in scarlet and purple!

(Copyright, 1918, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

COAT IS SHORTER

Three-Quarter Length Is Adopted for Sport Garment.

Colors Continue to Be Dull, but New Note Is Expressed in Brilliant Linings.

While the real long coats are still in favor for the coldest weather, the very latest models are said to be shorter. The first and foremost reason for this is that probably very few women wish to appear even a trifle wider at the bottom skirting than is absolutely necessary. Another hint as to coats is the new straight line which is now suggested. Sport coats have already adopted this new form and the result is a return to the three-quarter length box coat of a few years ago.

Any real changes, however, are not due for many months, and contradicting the straight-line theory comes a persistent rumor that Alsace-Lorraine is to be the next field of operations in fashions, although it is hard to see exactly where the far from artistic costume of this province can be reconciled with the present modes.

Paris fashions have always their little fling at the passing events, but spring is a long way off, and should another country come suddenly forward and a diplomatic compliment be considered due, it would upset all previous calculations. For fashion may be as fickle as she pleases in war or peace, so there is no knowing what may happen between now and spring-time in fashions, which is early in February.

To return to the subject of coats: Whatever the length or width the colors continue to be dull, if not uninteresting, and this has led to the new note expressed in brilliant linings. Two good reasons for these decidedly chic linings exist. The first is as stated, that matters were becoming a bit dull, and the second reason is that there seemed no other way to use the very beautiful silks both the American and French designers were turning out. "Ladies must live," but so must designers, and there seems to be no way out of it except to admit that our designers are true artists, and sheer admiration for their work is its own excuse for using their wares.

The plainer the suit or coat the more apt to be brilliant coloring in the lining. Slashes in the jackets and panels and tunics are further reasons for wishing to add a dash of color.

On a very original new suit with a rather short jacket both fur and lining contributed to the extremely clever air which it carried. The peplum of the jacket was straight and ungathered and a brilliant red taffeta lining made a strong contrast to the dull metri shade cloth. Even the high double rolling collar of the beaver fur was lined with the red, flashes of which also showed in the slashes of the peplum.

SHOP ODDS AND ENDS

Pretty little shades of colored crepe paper, cost only 25 cents and really give a soft glow to the glaring electric bulb. They are flower-like when in use, consisting of many petals, wired through the center, and all fastened to a little clamp fastener around the base of the bulb.

Along with the revived fashion for jet comes a showing in the shops of jet spangled fans. Some of them are very effective—big net fans heavily spangled with sequins of gleaming black jet.

Small platinum watches, set with diamonds, are mounted on gray wrist ribbons. The soft gray of the ribbon forms an admirable setting for the platinum of the watch.

CHIC IMPORTED HAT MODEL



This charming hat is of the taupe pressed beaver variety, the model of which has been imported into this country. The three wings that are placed high on the crown have a very interesting effect and give the hat individuality.

GOWN FOR THE DEBUTANTE



This simple yet charming afternoon gown will be well received by the debutante. It is of navy chiffon, heavily beaded in iridescent blue and black beads. The underskirt is of black val.

WINTER AND SPRING MODELS

Straight Lines and Trimmed With Fur; Jersey Cloth With Long, Tight Skirt.

Hudson seal is the most popular fur this season. Draped effects and coats of seal, trimmed daintily with squirrel, are very beautiful. Mole and beaver still hold their own.

The winter suits are very stunning. They are being shown along straight lines and trimmed with fur.

And now comes the spring suit. Fashion says it will be of jersey cloth, with a long tight skirt.

Winter coats, box effect, are being worn now, though coats are not so popular this season, many women preferring the winter suit to be worn late with their furs.

Suits without blouses seem to be just the thing now. Instead of a waist vestee is worn, or in some cases a dainty piece of colored silk is tucked in to give the effect.

Winter coats for the children are made of bright-colored broadcloth, with the yoke waist.

The latest novelty in neckwear is an apron slipover made of georgette.

Flirt and valenciennes lace now trim the daintier waists, while for every day we have striped dimity and batiste trimmed with tiny box plaits instead of the usual pin tucks.

A very popular shade this winter is nut brown.

While hitherto black has been tabooed for the young girl, many very beautiful and youthful dresses are being shown in black velvet and black satin. Most of the dresses have just a touch of trimming.

TRICOLETTE IS NOW TO FORE

Dress Material Wins Approval for Afternoon Frocks; Good for Wear Under Heavy Coat.

Tricotee has come very much to the fore as a dress material. A number of new afternoon frocks, on the order of a very beautiful model of black tricotee which Calot brought out last season, are being sponsored by well-known American designers, and these are particularly good for wear under a heavy coat, as they do not muss and are not so bulky as to distort the line of the outer garment. Heavy coarse jersey is also being used for frocks, and there is a new fishnet jersey which has just come from Paris and which promises to have quite a vogue. Among the novelties in the more formal silks are new metal brocades, the weaves of which are replicas of the coats of mail worn in medieval days. These are interesting and distinctively new.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

When dishes used for cooking have become discolored, rub them with damp salt until all stain is removed.

A marble boiled in milk, porridge, custards, etc., will automatically do the stirring as the liquid cooks, and so prevent burning.

Scatter salt on a carpet when sweeping, and you will not only find it has a cleansing effect but that it also keeps away moths.

Liquid ammonia is invaluable for washing silver, softening bath water, and producing a good lather when washing woollens.

Dissolve a teaspoonful of salt in a cupful of cold water and throw over a scuttle of coal. The fire will be brighter and last longer.

If a fire has to be left unwatched for several hours put a handful of salt on the top of the coals. This will prevent the fuel burning away too quickly.

Always shrink wool to be used for darning purposes by holding the skein in the steam from a boiling kettle. Otherwise the wool will shrink and make a hole larger than the original one.

CHOICE OF BLOUSE

Decision on Style Is of Importance to All Women.

Garment to Accompany Suit Should Blend Properly and Coat Must Be Long Enough.

Selection of the suit blouse is a much more important matter than many women think. If the blouse chosen to accompany a suit does not blend properly with the suit the entire outfit appears at a disadvantage, declares a fashion writer. If the suit is a dressy one, the blouse should be of the same type, and if a plainly tailored or sport suit is worn the blouse should be equally severe.

The blouse shown in the sketch is a smart model for wear with a dressy suit. The coat of the suit must be long enough to cover the entire blouse, of course; but suit coats this season are practically all quite long. Thirty-eight inches is about the minimum length, and some reach almost to the hem of the skirt.

The blouse shown is made of georgette, with the front cut on surplice lines. The back is plain, finished at the neck with a little round yoke or collar embroidered to match the long panels that extend down either side of the front. This blouse would be smart, made of white georgette, with embroidery and piping of revers in oriental colorings, or a single color to match the suit with which the blouse is to be worn may be chosen. This blouse might also be made of satin or crepe de chine, with very good effect.

A great many of the smartest blouses shown this season combine two colors. The upper part or sleeves may be of rose, with lower half, from bust to waistline, of navy, or the entire blouse may be of rose color with navy sleeves for example.

There is a clever conservation scheme in utilizing last season's blouses of sheer white, such as georgette, lace, net, etc., as the foundation over which are worn little low-necked, sleeveless blouses made of georgette



Suit Blouse, Embroidery and Fringe Trimmed.

In a color to match the season's suit. These little sleeveless georgette blouses in color are even worn over sheer lingerie blouses.

A great many tailored crepe de chine and satin blouses are shown this season made with high collars. These collars usually button severely, and are finished at the edge with a little turn-over of self-fabric.

The long Russian blouse continues to be a favorite with French designers; but Americans accept it rather reluctantly. One recently shown was made of purple georgette, embroidered in gold thread and banded about sleeves and edge with navy satin.

TO MAKE ECONOMICAL APRON

Worn-Out Shirts Can Be Turned to Good Service in These Days of High-Priced Cotton.

Every woman knows that when a man's shirt has worn out cuffs and holes below the collarband, making the shirt unwearable, there is still a quantity of good material left. When there are children in the family there is generally a way to use it; when not, it usually goes into the rag-bag.

An apron can be made of the material and in these days of high-priced cotton goods it will pay well to use the goods in this way. Cut off the neckband and yoke; cut out sleeves; lay body of shirt out flat and cut out apron, making it as large as the goods will permit. The openings on the side are sewed up. A facing for the top of the apron is cut from what is left of one of the fronts.

One sleeve will make the strings and the other sleeve will make a bib, if one is wanted, and with a little piecing a bib can be made with straps sewed into strings at the back.

This makes an apron that can be put on with one motion. No pins and no buttons, and bib always in place.

A good rule for the size of thread in making buttonholes is to have it no coarser than that used for making the garments.

BEAVER TRIMMING IS USED



Cafe au lait duvetyn forms the smart winter creation. The surplus waist has a large collar of beaver and the bell sleeves are edged with the same fur. Tassels of brown silk add an effective touch.

BLOUSE AND THE SHIRTWAIST

Garments That Aid the Majority of Women in Solving the Economical Dress Problem.

Every once in a while we are told by some fashion authority that "no one is wearing the shirtwaist," or that the blouse of the season is so modified from the old type of tucked-in shirtwaist as to be really a different garment; that "every one" now considers it necessary to have a special blouse made with a coat costume so that it virtually becomes a one-piece frock with a coat to match.

But the "every one" in such statements, notes a fashion correspondent, is really a very inconsiderable personage and the good old shirtwaist goes along solving the dress problem of almost all women—either in the home or in the workaday world outside the home.

You could prove to yourself if you wished to that it rarely if ever pays to buy a shirtwaist made of inferior material. In fact, the cheap shirtwaist is usually made on an inferior pattern and not only does the material shrink out of shape but the actual lines are such that it loses its good looks and comfort after a few launderings.

You could prove, even if you are dressing on so thrifty a basis as to allow yourself only \$100 or \$75 a year for all your clothes, that it is true economy to buy every year two blouses that cost as much as \$6 or \$7.

TWO NEW COLORS NOW IN USE

Overseas Blue and Artillery Red Provide Very Smart Combination—Military Effects.

There are two new colors which are beautiful, overseas blue and artillery red. The overseas blue is a shade as lovely as the sky on the most beautiful of days. Artillery red is the vivid bright scarlet one would imagine it to be. A combination of navy blue and artillery red is very smart, a mere touch of the latter being sufficient to brighten the duller shades. It is placed agreeably on a paneled blouse buttoning at one side with rather large round red buttons caught with silken loops of red cord.

It is curious to note, observes a fashion writer, how we reach out after as many of the military effects as possible. Epaullets, for instance, are made of fur, or gold fringe or silver, and again of some of the Japanese brocaded metallic fabrics.

Another military note is the slashing seen in some costumes. One fabric is slit and a material of contrasting color is pulled through the opening. This treatment supplies a very new and effective bit of trimming. A charming soft blouse of dove gray georgette with a tiny French chemise of Alencon lace was slashed through with pale pink velvet ribbons at the yoke and on the cuffs.

Helpful Hints.

The air of a room may be freshened by putting a few drops of oil of lavender into a bowl of boiling water and letting it stand until the water is quite cold. People who keep houses dark for fear of the sunlight spoiling their carpets or furniture have no idea of the disease-destroying influence of sunlight and air. The ends of candles are useful in kindling the fire. Cut them into small pieces and distribute them among the kindling. The fire will burn up much more quickly.